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THE FIRSTS

LIFE SKETCHES OF MEDICAL WOMEN
IN INDIA



*Their Pioneering work attracted women to enter
the field of medicine and its specialised subjects.*

*To S. L. Bhatia
Museum History of Medicine.*

THE FIRSTS

LIFE SKETCHES OF MEDICAL WOMEN IN INDIA

Dedicated to the memory of my husband

Maj. Gen. S.L. Bhatia

(who believed there was much to learn from the past)
and to the Medical women of the past and the present and the future.

Their pioneering work attracted women to enter the
field of medicine and its specialised subjects.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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S. Bhatia

Dr. Sushila Nayar M.D., M.P.H. Dr. P.H. U.S.A.
President : KASTURBA HEALTH SOCIETY
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Medical Sciences.
Honorary Professor Community
Medicine.

FOREWORD

Dr. Saryu Pandit has been a pioneer in promoting Maternal and Child Health in India. She was the first Indian Professor of Maternal & Child Health at the All India Institute and Public Health & Hygiene at Calcutta when the last English Professor left a little before Independence. I had the privilege of studying under her for a few months before I joined Gandhiji. But she has continued to extend to me her guidance and affection which I have always treasured. She married General Bhatia and after his retirement they settled at Bangalore, where her interest in Maternal and Child Health continued, and where she associated herself with several voluntary organisations concerned with social welfare. She also wrote a very nice book "Maternal and Child Health in Retrospect and gave the manuscript to UNICEF at Delhi for printing it. Unfortunately the UNICEF Office at Delhi lost the manuscript. Dr. Saryu Pandit has now written a small booklet about women doctors who have made a mark in various fields, and become pioneers encouraging many women to take up medical studies in various fields.

She proposes to have it printed on her own. I congratulate her on her perseverance and wish her all success. I am sure it will be a valuable piece of literature which all be read with great interest by medical and non-medical men & women. Knowing her as I do, I have no doubt that the book will be a very readable one. I am grateful to her for asking me to write a 'Foreword' for her book. I look forward to reading it.

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PREFACE

These brief life sketches of some of the pioneer medical women who have contributed in initiating medical aid to women and children, will convey to the readers the sacrifices they made and the ethical principles they maintained. It is their fore-thought and devotion to duty which helped the growth of medical aid and health services for mothers and children and popularised medical education among women in India. These pioneers paved the way for medical women to be equal partners with their colleagues, the men, in all branches of medicine.

It is hoped that the women doctors of the present will be inspired to pursue their goals inspite of barriers they may face and that they will consider it their duty to be good examples for the future generations of medical women, and that the women doctors of the future would continue to play with devotion their role in building the health of the nation in different fields of medicine and particularly in protecting the nation's children from health hazards and unwholesome external influences.

Sharayu Bhatia
(Nee Pabdit)

CHAPTER - I

BOTH MEDICAL AND OTHER MISSIONARY WOMEN HELPED TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE ENORMOUS LOSS AND HEALTH HAZARDS TO MOTHERS AND THE NEW BORN.

**THEY ARE : MS. HEWLETT, DR. CLARA SWAIN AND
DR. FANNY BUTLER.**

MISS HEWLETT

(The First missionary in India to initiate medical relief)

Miss Hewlett belonged to the "Church of England Zanana Missionary Society". She was the first missionary lady to start medical relief in India. Dr. Atchison (Civil Surgeon, Amritsar) had started a school for Dais at Amritsar in 1866 but there was no suitable person to train them. Miss Hewlett on her arrival in India in 1866 started medical relief for women at Amritsar and also established training of women in midwifery. The place of training was known as "Amritsar Dais' School". This was the first time that any medical relief and training of women in midwifery was begun by a woman for women.

Other missionary ladies who were already in India also began to take interest in starting medical relief for women. They collected information and also underwent non-formal training and undertook medical relief for women and children in different places in India, in addition to their mission work. Miss Hewlett trained women as hospital assistants. She was a woman with great wisdom and even Lady Dufferin (wife of the then Governor General) took her advice in constituting the "National Association for Supplying Female Medical Aid to Women in India". Miss Hewlett died in 1912 at Mussorie (U.P.).

*Let life be beautiful like summer
flowers and death like autumn leaves*
Rabindranath Tagore

DR. (MS) CLARA SWAIN, M.D., (PENN)

First Medical Missionary to provide medical relief

Dr. (Ms) Clara Swain, M.D. (Penn) of the Missionary Society of Methodist Church, U.S.A. arrived in India (Bareilly, U.P.) in the year 1869. She started training girls from an orphanage maintained by Mr. and Mrs. D.W. Thomas who also belonged to the same mission and were in Bareilly. Dr. Swain, in addition to her medical work (for women), conducted a class of 14 girls for training them in nursing, midwifery and compounding.



Dr. Swain's medical work became popular in U.P. As a result, the Nawab of Rampur gave a site for a hospital for women where a dispensary was established in 1873 and a few hospital beds were added a year later. Dr. Swain worked at Rampur for 10 years and later in 1885 she joined her friend Miss Pannel at Khetri where the Raja had established a school for girls and a dispensary for women. Dr. Swain, in addition to her mission work, was a physician to the Rani and the other women members of the Raja's family. Both the sisters continued the education and the medical work at Khetri. Dr. Swain returned to U.S.A. in 1895, but again came back to India in 1906 to attend the Jubilee Celebration at the Methodist Church. She died in U.S.A. in 1910. The other early missionary women doctors from U.S.A. were Dr. Sara. C. Steward and Dr. Sara Meris who came to Allahabad (U.P. in 1871 and 1873 respectively.

DR. FANNY BUTLER

First Missionary (woman) Doctor from U.K.

Dr. Fanny Butler qualified from the London Medical School for women and Royal Free Hospital. She came to Jabalpur in 1880 under the "Church of England Zanana Mission". The mission later moved to Kashmir where her work was popular and plans were prepared to have a dispensary and a hospital for women; unfortunately she died in 1889.

CHAPTER - II

WOMEN WHO FIRST RESPONDED FOR TRAINING IN MEDICINE AND ALSO PARTICIPATED IN EARLY MEDICAL AID TO WOMEN

ANANDI BAI JOSHI, ANNIE JAGANATHAN, RUKMA BAI,
ANNE WALKER, SOPHIA IDA SCUDDER.

ANANDI BAI JOSHI M.D (PENN)

First Indian to study medicine

Anandi Bai was married at the young age of 13 years. She lost her child, and this made her decide to devote her life to serve women and children and to provide medical aid to them. She went to U.S.A. in 1883 and joined the Women's Medical College, Pennsylvania.

On her return to India in 1888 she was incharge of the hospital at Kolhapur. Unfortunately she developed Tuberculosis and died after a year.

DR. MISS. ANNIE JAGANATHAN

L.R.C.P., S.E.

(First Indian to have studied medicine in Madras as well as in England)

Miss Annie Jaganathan, Indian pioneer medical woman, studied at the Madras Medical College (1883-88) and later proceeded to Edinburgh (1888) where she obtained the triple qualification (i.e., medicine, surgery and midwifery) of the Scottish Colleges 1892. On her return to India she worked at the Cama Hospital, Bombay. She hardly worked for a couple of years as she died in 1894.



DR (MRS) RUKMA BAI L.R.C.P., S.E.

(The Founder Member of the "Association of Medical Women in India, First Indian, woman medical as officer of "All India Women's Medical Service".)

Rukma Bai was the daughter of Dr. Sakaram Arjun of Bombay who held a high position as surgeon to the Viceroy of India. Rukma Bai was born in 1864 and was married at the young age of 12 years, but she was soon divorced at the age of 17 and had to face difficulties. She had to fight her way in the court. She had great courage in facing these difficulties and her boldness and determination were very much appreciated by the intelligent public.



She later decided to study medicine. Dr. Pechey Phipson who was a champion for women's causes and was working at the Cama Hospital (Bombay) helped her to get admission at the "London Medical School for Women". She was among the first few women from India who had her medical education in England. Dr. Pechey had requested a few of her friends in England to help Rukma Bai in London. She completed her studies in London and also took post-graduate studies at Brussels and returned to India in 1893.

She worked for a few months under Dr. Pechey at the Cama Hospital. Dr. Rukma Bai then went to Surat to take charge of a women's dispensary which later developed as a hospital for women and children. Dr. Rukma Bai is the founder member of the "Association of Medical Women in India" established in 1907.

In 1916 when the All India Women's Medical Service was established under the Dufferin's Fund, Dr. Rukma Bai was admitted to the regular Women's Medical Service as the first Indian officer of the senior cadre of the W.M.S. As a W.M.S. officer, Dr. Rukma Bai continued at Surat and worked there for 22 years. Later she was at Rajkot Zenana Hospital for 12 years until her retirement.

Dr. Rukma Bai was kind and tactful with her patients. She respected their customs and practices. She helped and inspired many young women to be doctors and nurses. She was a pleasant person and could talk on different subjects. She retired from the W.M.S. in 1930 but continued to do medical and social work for a number of years at Rajkot and later in Bombay. She died in 1936.

DR. (MISS) ANNE WALKE LM & S (BOMBAY)

(First Indian to qualify from Indian University)

Miss Anne Walke, the first Indian woman to obtain medical qualification from an Indian University, was a Goan and was born in Bombay. She had her early education at Panchgani near Poona in a Catholic School. She joined the Grant Medical College, Bombay, in 1883 and had a distinguished career as a medical student. She qualified in 1888 obtaining first class in the L.M.S. of Bombay University and had the highest number of marks in the final. She was recipient of the University Gold Medal and Women of India Fund Scholarship "The Lady Reary Medal and Scholarship".

She worked as Assistant at the Cama Hospital for 10 years under Dr. Pechey Phipson. She married and was later Dr (Mrs) Sharp. Dr. Walke Sharp died at a young age during the plague epidemic of 1898 in Bombay.

MISS SOPHIA IDA SCUDDER M.D. (PENN.) D.SC

(First Missionary girl to train in medicine and to work in India)

Miss Sophia Ida Scudder whose medical work gained fame and popularity in India was born at Ranipet (Tamil Nadu) in 1870 where her father Dr. John Scudder, an American Missionary, was engaged in medical work. She went to U.S.A for her schooling at the age of 8 years. On completing her studies in the U.S.A., she came



to spend some time with her parents before settling down to work in U.S.A. Her father was still practising medicine at Ranipet.

One night young Ida observed that quite a few calls came to her father for medical help. These cases happened to be of women in labour (belonging to different communities Muslims, Hindus and particularly Brahmin), but they did not avail of her father's help as they wanted help only from a medical woman. This made a deep impression on Miss Scudder's young mind and she decided to change her plans.

She returned to U.S.A. and in 1888 joined the Philadelphia Medical college for women and later to complete her final year, moved to Cornell University (New York), where the college admitted women to study medicine. On completing her studies she worked in New York. Dr. Ida Sophia Scudder returned to India in 1900 and started medical work in her home at Ranipet where her father was also practising. She took up medical work in the nearby villages. In 1902, Dr. Scudder started the "Mary Tabor Schell Hospital" with 40 beds. She also visited the surrounding villages using her father's car and started regular medical clinics.

In 1918 she established a hospital and medical school for women at Vellore and also organised the Vellore branch of the "Madras Association for Maternity and Child Welfare - 1924". In 1927 Mahatma Gandhi visited Vellore and also paid a visit to the Medical School for women there.

Dr. Scudder was a brilliant surgeon and her work at the Christian Medical School Hospital, Vellore soon gained popularity. The Women's Medical School became a co-educational college. The college had university recognition (1947) and was affiliated to the Madras University. Dr. Scudder was its first Dean and Director of the College and Hospital. She retired in 1946 but continued her interest in the growth and in the work and development of the college and the hospital.

She was awarded the Kaiseri-Hind Gold Medal in 1920. In 1934, she was made Member of the American College of Surgeons and was given the degree of "Doctor of Science". She was President of the First all India Conference of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (held in Madras) 1936, and was its founder member.

*Grant me that I may not be a coward feeling your mercy in my
sorrow alone, but let me find the grasp of your hand in my failure*

Rabindranath Tagore

She closely watched the progress of the Vellore Hospital and the college. The students and staff had much respect for her and many medical women became specialists rendering valuable services in different specialities. She died at the good age of 90 years in 1960.

CHAPTER - III

WOMEN IN MEDICINE ALSO HELD SENIOR POLITICAL POSITIONS

**DR (MRS) MUTHULAXMI REDDY,
DR (MISS) SUSHILA NAYAR AND
DR (MRS) RAMACHANDRAN**

DR. (MRS) MUTHULAXMI REDDY M.B. & C.M

Vice President of Legislative Assembly (old
Madras Presidency)

Dr (Mrs) Muthulaxmi Reddy belonged to the former Pudukotah State (Tamil Nadu) where she had her schooling and was the first woman student at the State College. She was an outstanding student at the Madras Medical College, where she obtained the MBCH in 1912 (graduate). She was appointed Medical Officer of the Widows' Home and other social organisations. Thus her early association with social work helped her to be a pioneer social reformer who engaged herself in promoting the welfare of women and children.



Dr. Muthulaxmi married Dr. Sunderam Reddy FRCS in 1913 who was a Surgeon in Pudukotah State. They had two sons. The elder became an engineer & worked in Delhi and the younger is a doctor at Cancer Hospital Madras.

In 1918, Dr. Reddy started working with Mrs. Annie Besant and Margaret Cousins and organised the "Women's Indian Association" of which she was later President.

Dr. Reddy was nominated a Member of the Madras Legislative Council during the pre-independence days) and was elected its Vice President (1926). Dr. Reddy in this prestigious position worked for the cause of women. She also proposed certain reforms for the abolition of the institution of Devadasis and for establishing women's rights through legislature and "abolition of immoral traffic of women and children". She established the Avvai Home for Girls at Adyar which continues to render protection and education and services to girls.

In 1930, Dr. Muthulaxmi resigned as Vice President, Madras legislative Council and member of the Legislative Council in protest against the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi (at Gandhi Salt Sathyagraha). She later worked with Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur and Begum Hamida Ali, and represented women's organisation from India at the "International Women's Alliance de France" as well as at the Chicago conference in USA 1925. She also attended the First All India Women's Conference held in Lahore in 1931.

Dr. (Mrs) Reddy helped in obtaining grants from Government of Madras for the Paediatric units at the Government General Hospital and the Kasturba Hospital for Women and Children, Madras.

With a view to collecting detailed information on education for the Simon Commission (1928) committee, the Hartog Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Hartog (Secretary, Education) was set up. Dr. Reddy served on this committee. Dr. Reddy was able to get valuable information on women's education which helped her to promote women's education. Dr. Reddy has published quite a few papers & books for the welfare of mothers & babies namely Infant feeding, Care of children, Evils of child marriage Devadasi institutions, Infant mortality & others.

Dr. Reddy worked for the Cancer Hospital, Madras in 1927 at a time when information on Cancer was limited. She collected a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs and also obtained land for it in 1952. The foundation stone of the hospital was laid by Pandit Nehru. The Cancer Hospital, Madras began to function in 1954.

Dr. Reddy's name will go down in history, as the first woman legislator and first medical woman to be the Vice President of the legislative Assembly in Madras as early as 1926 at a time when women even in the advanced countries did not enjoy such prestigious positions.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR, M.D., (PUNJAB) DR. PH, U.S.A.

First to have high qualification in Public Health, First State Health Minister, Delhi State 1952-55 and later Union Minister for Health.

Sushila Nayar was born in 1914 at Gujarat (Kunjah District West Punjab, now Pakistan) where she spent her early childhood and schooling. She had her medical education in Delhi at the Lady Hardinge Medical College and graduated in 1935. She worked at the Lady Hardinge Medical College Hospital, Delhi and later at the Dufferin Hospital, Calcutta 1936-37. In view of her and her family's association with Mahatma Gandhi, Sushilaji was keen to work in rural areas and wanted to prepare for it. She decided to enrol as a student at the "All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health", Calcutta in 1937. About the same time the Congress Session was held that year in Calcutta. Unfortunately Mahatma Gandhi took ill while in Calcutta and Sushila, who was keen to spend some time with Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba and engage herself in rural health work Sevagram, decided not to join the training. She later joined the Lady Hardinge Medical college and held the post of Registrar and Assistant Professor and prepared for the M.D. (Punjab), which she passed. Her enthusiasm to work for rural mothers and children continued.



She undertook rural medical service in Sevagram and she was Secretary of the Medical Board of Kasturba Trust. In 1945 the Kasturba Hospital at Sevagram was established and in 1946 she was at Naokhali where she organised health services.

In 1946, when Mahatma Gandhi founded the "Kasturba Trust" (for the upliftment of women of rural areas), Dr. Nayar was asked to organise training of multipurpose health workers. She is the Founder Member of the "Sevagram Health Society" which was established through her own efforts. She also started medical, health and social service in Sevagram (near Wardha) and later she developed training centres at the Kasturba Nagar, Indore, where women are trained as multi-purpose health and social workers to work among rural people.

In 1947, Dr. Nayar proceeded to U.S.A. for training in Public Health under the United Nations (Social Welfare) Fellowship and joined the "John's Hopkins" at Baltimore, where she obtained the Masters Degree, M.P.H. and later qualified for the Doctorate in Public Health (1950). Dr. Nayar is the first medical person to have this high qualification in health work.

On her return to India, Dr. Nayar was Director of Medical and Health Services at Faridabad where she developed the "Badshah Khan Hospital" as well as health and other medical centres for the people who had migrated to India from Pakistan. The Faridabad town which was a camp for the refugees, was developed as an industrial town to settle the people from Punjab and was provided with adequate medical and health facilities.

After a year, Dr. Nayar entered the field of politics and was elected to Delhi Assembly 1951-56 (when it became a separate state). She was its first Health Minister (1952-55). Later she was speaker Delhi Vidhan Sabha 1955-56.

Dr. Nayar was elected to Lok Sabha 1956 and continued to be its member until 1971.

In 1962 Dr. Nayar was appointed as Union Minister for Health and had other two portfolios; the "Local self government" and "Town and Family Planning". She made some rich contributions as State Health Minister, Delhi and as Union Minister for Health Government of India (1962-67).

Dr. Nayar did not give up her original zeal and interest in rural work, but all along associated herself with development services at Sevagram as well as under the "Kasturba Trust".

The Sevagram Hospital soon developed as a big teaching institution for women and men doctors and also for training nurses; "The Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences", Sevagram. Dr. Nayar continued as a member of Lok Sabha 1957-71 and again in 1977-79: She assumed several other responsibilities namely President, Indian Council of Medical Research (1962-67), President, All India Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (1977-79) and as President, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi (1977-79).

Dr. Nayar continued her interest in medical education and health work and has been President, "Kasturba Health Society, Sevagram" and Professor, Community Medicine and Director, "Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences", Sevagram; since 1969. In her position as Professor of Community Medicine, she is imparting her knowledge and rich experience to medical students and other colleagues associated with the Medical Institute at Sevagram. As a medical woman, Dr. Sushila Nayar has enjoyed prestigious position and has closely associated herself in all India organisations. She has published scientific and other papers, and is the author of books "Kasturba"; "Karavs Ki Kahani".

Dr. Nayar is sound in her judgement. She is strict, a fine teacher and an able administrator. Several of her colleagues and students have benefited from her rich experience and teaching. She has also been able to induce young doctors to assist in health work in rural areas.

DR MRS. SOUNDAM RAMACHANDRAN

(MBBS (PUNJ.) DGO (MADRAS))

First woman doctor to be Deputy Minister - Education and also a devoted worker in promoting rural health and medical services.

Dr. Soundram belonged to the well known T.V.S. family of Madurai (Tamil Nadu) who are well known for their philanthropy. She had her early education in Madras and graduated in medicine in 1935 from the Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi. She was a classmate and a close associate of Dr. Sushila Nayar. She did post graduate work at Madras Medical College and obtained D.G.O. (Madras).

Dr. Soundram while in Madras helped Dr. (Mrs) Muthulaxmi Reddy and worked at Avvai Home for Girls at Adyar. In 1946 with the establishment of the Gandhi Memorial and Kasturba Trust, Dr. Soundram was appointed Agent for Madras Presidency.

She did considerable work in promoting health and welfare of women and children in Madras and later in the interior of Tamil Nadu. She organised medical services for girls at the Avvai Home in Adyar. She did considerable

work in promoting health and welfare services and in developing and in promoting socio-economic programmes for improving the economy of women. She thus devoted herself to rural reconstruction and rural health and medical work in Tamil Nadu and the rural work in Tamil Nadu was well organised under her guidance.

As Chairman of the State Social Welfare Advisory Board, Tamil Nadu, she organised the community projects in Tamil Nadu.

In 1943, Dr. Soundram married Mr. Ramachandran a well known educationist and a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi. They both founded the Gandhi Gram Institution near Madurai in 1947, an educational institution which contributed much in developing Rural Higher Education. Dr. Soundram with her medical background and experience in rural health and medical work established a maternity hospital and maternity and children's clinic along with programme of rural reconstruction and education. The work at Gandhi Gram is well recognised in India as well as outside. Seminars and training programmes were arranged at Gandhi Gram for doctors and educationists.

Dr. Soundram was elected to the Tamil Nadu state Assembly twice and was Deputy Minister, Education at the centre during the years 1962-67.

Dr. Soundram and Mr. Ramachandran were devoted workers and dedicated themselves to Rural Reconstruction work in Tamil Nadu.

*Of pleasant days I had my share
For love and fame no more I care*

Rabindranath Tagore

CHAPTER - IV

MEDICAL WOMEN WHO WERE IN CHARGE OF MEDICAL WORK AND ADMINISTRATION OF LARGE HOSPITALS

DR. EDITH PECHEY PHIPSON, DR (MISS) JARUSHA JHIRAD,
DR (MRS) MARY POONEN LUKOSE, DR (MISS) ALBUQUERQUE

DR. EDITH PECHEY PHIPSON, M.D. (LONDON)

(First British woman doctor employed in India)

Mr. George T. Kittredge, an American businessman of Bombay and an active member for the "Medical women of India Fund, Bombay" went to England in leave in 1883. While in England he, on behalf of the Committee, looked for a suitable doctor (the best available Lady Medical Officer) for the proposed Cama Hospital, Bombay, which was under construction. (It was not easy to find a lady doctor even in England in those days). He interviewed Dr. Edith Pechey, M.D. whose name was suggested and offered her the post as Senior Medical Officer and Director, Cama Hospital, Bombay on a salary of Rs. 500/- p.m.



Dr. Pechey was born in 1845 and belonged to the Victorian era (a progressive period when women all over the world made progress and many reforms were introduced for the good of the country). The medical women in England and in U.S.A. faced a strong front, as there was opposition to the medical education and medical practice by women; even senior physicians like Dr. Robert Christian (a senior Professor and Physician to the Queen) was an opponent to medical education of women. It was the 1878 Act, which clarified the position of women for admission to medical schools and for their registration as doctors.

Miss Pechey did her pre-medical studies at Edinburgh (the year women were first admitted by that University). She stood first and qualified for the "Hope Prize" in chemistry, but being a woman she was denied the prestigious award and honour. Since there were difficulties at Edinburgh, Miss Pechey decided to join the medical course in Ireland and completed the

training there. While waiting for her registration she went to Vienna for further experience. Dr. Pechey was the first woman to be registered under the 1878 Act in U.K.

Dr. Pechey arrived in Bombay in November 1883 to take over the post of "Director and Medical Officer in charge of the Cama Hospital", Bombay. As the building of the Cama Hospital was not ready, she first took charge of a dispensary for women near Crawford Market. As soon as the building was completed, she took charge of the Cama Hospital. Dr. Pechey was the First Director and Medical Officer of the Cama Hospital. She was an experienced and an able officer and proved to be skilled in medical work. She was also a good administrator and arranged the Cama Hospital well. She made the services popular and further expanded the hospital by constructing the Albless Wing in 1890. Dr. Pechey's administrative ability and skilled medical work proved that women doctors can efficiently take charge of a hospital.

Dr. Edith married Mr. Herbert Phipson (who was in Bombay) in 1889. She gave up the post at the Cama Hospital in 1898, as the Committee raised the question of lowering the fees she charged for private cases. She was asked by the Committee to charge less for middle class patients which she refused on grounds of maintaining her status in the medical profession (where she enjoyed a foremost place). The medical men were charging full fees for all the patients. She resigned in 1898 but continued to work in Bombay and gave her voluntary services and assisted young women to take up medical and nursing professions. She did outstanding work during the plague epidemic in Bombay (1902).

She returned to England in 1905 via Australia where she addressed a group of women. On her return to England she played a notable part in promoting the status of women in general and particularly of medical women. She also worked for the London office of "The Association for Supplying Medical Aid to Women of India by Women".

She died in 1908 in England. Great tribute was paid to her by all women particularly medical women by arranging a procession in London, where medical women marched in robes and academic dress carrying banners. One of the banners bore the words "Pechey Phipson, M.D., a name that will always be remembered with reverence and affection in Bombay". A memorial fund was created by medical women and named "Edith Pechey Phipson Memorial Fund" for medical education of women both in England and in India.

PADMASHRI DR (MISS) JARUSHA JHIRAD

MD, FRCUG (LONDON)

(First woman to receive Government Scholarship for studies in England and the first Indian Superintendent, Cama and Albless Hospital, Bombay).

Dr. Miss Jarusha Jhirad was born in Karnataka (Shimoga District) the former princely state of Mysore. Her early education was in Poona. Dr. Jhirad's sister was treated by Dr. Annette Benson at the Cama Hospital, Bombay. Her sister's successful treatment made a lasting impression on Jarusha's young mind. Miss. Jhirad while in school developed a keen desire to qualify as a doctor and be incharge of the Cama and Albless Hospital for Women, Bombay. As a result Miss Jarusha worked her way to be a distinguished medical woman.



Jarusha had a brilliant career in school, where she was a merit scholar and later at the Grant Medical College, Bombay, from where she graduated in 1912.

Dr. Jhirad applied for the Tata Loan for studies in England. Meanwhile she was advised to apply for a Government Scholarship as well (which was given to only men for studies in U.K.). She was awarded this, the first time that the Government of Bombay gave the scholarship to a woman. She proceeded to England and was admitted to the "London Medical School for Women" for M.D. One of the conditions required for M.D., was six months internship in a recognised hospital in England. Miss Jhirad held a resident post at the "Garett Anderson Hospital", London, where she worked for two years during World War I. Her work was appreciated by the patients and the authorities and she gained valuable experience as she worked under difficult conditions of war. She qualified for M.D. London and returned to India in 1919. She started consulting practice in Bombay but was soon called to Delhi for a temporary vacancy at the Lady Hardinge Medical College for women, New Delhi. Later she was called to Bangalore for the post of Senior Surgeon, "Bangalore Maternity Hospital". Dr. Albuquerque was appointed as Assistant Surgeon. Unfortunately the facilities for operations and advanced work at Bangalore were limited and Dr. Jhirad requested the State Government to create facilities for surgical work, for laboratory work and also for a bigger

hospital. In 1925, Dr. Jhirad returned to Bombay and started private practice on her own, but was soon appointed Honorary Surgeon, Cama Hospital (1925-28). In 1928 Dr. Jhirad was appointed Superintendent of the same hospital. Her long awaited dream of her young days was thus fulfilled. Dr. Jhirad was the first Indian to have this post which had once been held by Dr. Pechey and Dr. Benson. Dr. Jhirad developed the undergraduate and post graduate (M.D., D.G.O.) training and the hospital was affiliated to the Grant Medical college as a teaching hospital for women students for Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Dr. Jhirad's experience, knowledge and devotion to duty thus benefitted many young women who were trained at the Cama Hospital under her, and also those women doctors who worked and were associated with her at the hospital and outside.

Dr. Jhirad conducted a statistical enquiry into causes of maternal deaths in Bombay (1937-38). She was Chairman of the "Maternity and Child Welfare Advisory committee" of the Indian Council of Medical Research 1935-52. She was an active member of the Association of Medical Women and its President from 1947-57. She was the Founder Member of the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society of India and presided over the sixth All India Congress of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists held in Madras. Dr. Jhirad was examiner for M.B.B.S. at different universities and also for M.D. students in Obstetrics. She was a strict examiner and was particularly so for women students.

Dr. Jhirad was highly respected by her colleagues both men and women and was invited to deliver many orations (lectures). She was decorated with M.B.E. in 1945 and with Padmashri in 1962.

Dr. Jhirad retired from the Cama Hospital in 1947 but continued medical practice in Bombay and many women were under her skilled care. On her 80th Birthday, the members of the Association of Medical Women of India created a fund for a library at the Cama Hospital "Dr. Jhirad Library". She died in 1983 after a brief illness at the age of 93. She kept in touch with the women doctors in Bombay and other places who had much respect and affection for her. Dr. Jhirad was small built, had a soft voice, but was very convincing. The women doctors have created a fund "Dr. Jhirad Fund" for an oration at the annual meetings at the Association of Medical Women in India.

DR. (MRS) MARY POONEN LUKOSE

M.D (LONDON)

(First Chief Medical Officer and first Surgeon General of the former princely state of Travancore, Kerala.



Miss Mary Poonen was born in 1886. She belonged to a well known family of the Travancore state. Her paternal grand father was T.R. Poonen and her mother came from Aymanam, Kottayam. Her mother had 5 brothers all of whom held high positions. Her father T.K. Poonen had his medical education in England and was the first from the state to study medicine in England. He qualified for M.B.B.S. and M.D., M.C.H. His brothers also held high positions.

Dr. T.E. Poonen worked as Civil Surgeon Alleppey (Quilon) where he also trained midwives in Malayalam; the same place now has a hospital "Their Silver Jubilee Hospital for Women and Children, Quilon". He was later superintendent of the hospital at Trivandrum where Miss Mary watched her father working. With a view to improving the hospital, Dr. Poonen had English trained nurses who belonged to a religious order. Young Mary developed a special liking for the nurses.

On completion of schooling the question of her future studies had to be decided. Although Mary had prepared herself to train as a doctor, her father's friends were keen that she prepared to be a teacher and suggested her studying at "Trinity College" Dublin. She thus joined the college for Arts and did B.A. All the same, Mary Poonen was anxious and keen to take up medicine and be a doctor like her father. Her father had often told her of the privileges she had in life which many did not have and had emphasised the need for "Services. to young sisters" who were less privileged. Since Mary had shown keen desire for medicine her father arranged for her to go to Edinburgh for her studies.

Mary Poonen sailed for England in 1909 from Colombo (Ceylon). She stayed with an Indian student Dr (Miss) Singh and got admission to the London Medical School for Women. In view of her being a graduate, she was exempted from the entrance examination but had to do a year of science and also had to learn Latin. On completion of her studies, she worked at the "Queen Charlotte Hospital" and later went to Rotands

Hospital, Dublin where she could attend to domicillary midwifery cases and have training under Dr. Johnson (the author of the Midwifery text book). At Rotands she also had the rare opportunity of working with the surgeons in operative work. During the training Mary had made friends. Among them was an English girl Miss Hilda Scarborough who remained her life long friend. As she was preparing to return to India, she heard of her father's serious illness. He passed away before she could return. She travelled in a camouflaged ship during the First World War.

The Secretary of State for India in U.K. had already informed Mary Poonen of the vacancy for a doctor in Trivandrum. She also had an offer to take charge of the Caste and Ghosha Hospital, Madras where Dr. Mary Scharlieb was. Dr. Mary Poonen preferred to work in her native place. She was appointed to the post of Senior Surgeon, Trivandrum Hospital for Women and Children which had just moved to its new premises. The hospital needed improvements for better services; although there were 91 beds, the number of patients was small. Dr. Mary Poonen with her experience and tact soon improved the services at the hospital. The conditions in 1916 at the Trivandrum Hospital for Women and Children were in no way different from other hospitals (namely the then Dufferin Hospital and Government Hospitals). There was lack of nurses and midwives, and services were poor. In addition, the better class people had an impression that the hospitals were meant for the very poor and if one went to the hospital, one would die. Fortunately Dr. Poonen Lukose with the experience she had, was able to improve the services. She was fortunate to have the nuns who worked with her father. The facilities at the hospital were improved and the hospital soon became popular.

Dr. Mary Poonen Lukose had two children. The daughter, a doctor was a member of the Training Wing of the W.M.S. She was deputed for post graduate studies to England. On her return after post graduate training in Surgery (FRCS), she died as a result of an accident.

NOTE

The information on Dr. Mary Poonen is from the radio speeches she delivered during her life time.

*It is struggle against nature and not conformity
to nature that makes man what he is*

Swami Vivekananda

SASTRAVAIDYA PRAVEENE
DR. (MISS) MARY C. ALBUQUERQUE

MBBS (MADRAS) MRCO(LONDON)

(First Superintendent Vani Vilas Hospital,
Bangalore - former Mysore State)

Miss Mary Albuquerque was from Goa. After her medical education at Madras, she specialised in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in England and obtained MRCOG (London). On her return she worked at the Bangalore Maternity Hospital with Dr. Jarusha Jhirad. The latter during her work in Bangalore as Senior Medical officer moved the Government for a larger hospital with facilities for surgical work. Dr. Albuquerque worked with Dr. Jhirad as Senior Obstetrician (1922-25)



The doctors from the Bangalore Maternity Hospital (Dr. Jhirad and Dr. Albuquerque) started medical and health care for mothers and children at Mahila Seva Samaja where the efforts and interest of Smt. Parvati Chandrasekhara (a great social reformer and founder of the Seva Samaja at Bangalore) had established the Bangalore city Welfare Centre for the medical and health care of children and their mothers as well as other mothers. Smt. Chandrasekhara was a genuine social worker, extremely nice and affectionate to the children and visiting the mothers in the hospitals.

The Bangalore Maternity Hospital soon became popular through the work of these qualified doctors namely Dr. Jhirad and Dr. Albuquerque. Dr. Jhirad left for Bombay in 1925 and Dr. Albuquerque was appointed as Senior Medical Officer in the vacancy. She worked hard for a new and large hospital in Bangalore and collected funds by arranging film shows through some grateful patients and their relatives. The Maharaja Wodeyar and Sir Mirza Ismail, the then Dewan, appreciated Dr. Albuquerque's initiative, and allocated a site where the Vani Vilas Hospital now stands. The new building of the hospital "The Vani Vilas Hospital for Women and Children" was opened by late H.H. Krishnarajendra Wodeyar in March 1935. Dr. (Miss) Albuquerque who had done so much for the hospital was appointed as its first Medical Superintendent. The hospital, with the establishment of the Bangalore Medical College, became its teaching unit for

Obstetrics and for Paediatrics. The hospital celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1961.

The Vani Vilas Hospital began to grow and gained its popularity. It was due to Dr. Albuquerque who was particular in attending to the poor as she felt it was difficult for the poor to avail of proper medical care privately. Within a short time Dr. Albuquerque made additions to the hospital and provided for a school and hostel for nurses. A children's unit was added which later formed part of the comprehensive maternity and child welfare state project, Bangalore (1954) and received W.H.O. & Unicef assistance as well as from the Government of India.

Dr. Albuquerque was extremely considerate to the medical and nursing staff and was a living example of a good doctor; sympathetic, kind and considerate to the patients and their relatives.

Dr. Albuquerque was a good teacher. A few batches of students were taught by her after the Bangalore Medical college was established; the students were very appreciative of her lectures and her teaching in the wards. She was proud of her students and the staff who worked with her and was happy to see their performance and their promotion. She made an appeal to doctors to be gentle, to be kind and considerate to patients and their relatives, to assist colleagues and doctors and to have patience, as maternity practice requires hours of immense patience, kindness and gentleness. Her work and services were recognised not merely by the people of Bangalore and the rest of Mysore State but also by the higher authorities; the Maharaja and the Dewans too were appreciative of her work as a doctor. She rendered long years of service to thousands of mothers and children at the hospitals and in her private capacity.

She was honoured by the State Government for the splendid services she rendered to the State and was decorated with the honour "Sastra Vaidya Pravene" (the highest honour to a doctor).

After her retirement from the Vani Vilas Hospital in 1958, Dr. Albuquerque continued private practice and was a personal friend and physician to the Royal family. She was instrumental in the negotiations for the building which now houses the All India Tuberculosis Institute on Bellary Road.

During her active years of service, she assisted a number of young colleagues to be good doctors not merely in the skill but also in dealing with patients, their relations and friends.

CHAPTER - V

DOCTORS WHO INITIATED AND WORKED FOR PREVENTION OF HEALTH HAZARDS AND MEASURES TO PROMOTE HEALTH OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN -

DR. RUTH YOUNG AND
DR (MRS) BHATIA (NEE MISS PANDIT)

DR. RUTH YOUNG, B.Sc., M.D.C.H.B.

(First to promote health services for mothers and children in India)

Dr. Ruth Young came to India as a young Missionary Doctor in the early years of the century (1910) as Miss Ruth Wilson and worked at the Mission Hospital, Ludhiana. She married Professor Young (a Shakespearean Scholar) who was teaching at the St. Stephen's College, Delhi.



In 1920 Dr. Ruth Young was appointed in the office of Countess of Dufferin's Fund, Delhi, to assist Dr. Margaret Balfour, Chief Medical Officer, W.M.S. and Secretary of the Dufferin's Fund. This additional post was created to promote health services for mothers and children and to administer certain funds namely the "Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund" for training of women for maternity work and the "Lady Chelmsford League Fund" for promoting child welfare as well as for training health workers.

Dr. Young was the key person in organising the All India Health Exhibition in Maternity and Child Welfare in 1920. She prepared useful literature on the subject for the public and arranged the exhibition most scientifically. The exhibition helped to stimulate interest in initiating the health services for mothers and children.

Dr. Ruth Young established the Model Health School, the "Lady Reading Health School, Delhi" for training Health Visitors. She encouraged provincial governments and voluntary organisations to establish similar schools in the provinces and princely states.

In 1931, Dr. Young approached Miss Nora Hill, the General Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society to establish an "All India Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau" in the office of the Red Cross Society, New Delhi. This had helped to co-ordinate and to promote the services for mothers and children and in training health workers. The Countess of Dufferin's Fund provided the services of a W.M.S. Officer for the post of Director and Dr. Young was assigned for the post as its first Director (1933). The Diploma course (DMCW) in Maternity and Child Welfare (to run simultaneously with the Diploma course in Public Health - DPH) at the newly established All India Institute of Hygiene and Public health, Calcutta (1933) was introduced due to Dr. Young's foresight and effort.

For teaching Maternity and Child Welfare, the Department was established at the Institute in Calcutta. The same was further expanded and improved and in 1948 was recognised by WHO as the Regional Training Centre for the South East Asia Region.

Dr. Young in her capacity as Director of the Bureau in Delhi encouraged and created interest in Maternity and Child Welfare and gave scientific orientation to the health programmes for mothers and children. The voluntary organisations and provincial government began to approach the Dufferin's Fund Council to assign medical women with training in health work. They appreciated the services of well trained officers and began to take interest in reorganising the services under government and in creating department of maternity and child welfare at Provincial level.

Dr. Young was Principal of the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women for the years 1936-41 and was thus able to introduce health work in the Lady Hardinge Hospital and also in training doctors and nurses. A small paediatric unit was established at the college during her term of office as Principal. She retired in 1941 and returned to Edinburgh with her family. Dr. Ruth Young inspired and helped young doctors to undertake training in health work. Dr. Mrs. Bhatia nee S. Pandit was one who had such training under her guidance. She always showed a motherly feeling in dealing with young doctors and health workers.

Dr. Young watched the progress of Maternity and Child Welfare services in India for several years. She died in her home in Edinburgh at the age of 99 in 1983. Dr. Ruth Young is the joint author with Dr. M. Balfour for the book entitled "Work of the Medical Women in India"

DR. (MRS) SHARAYU BHATIA (NEE PANDIT)

MBBS (BOMBAY) DMCH (CAL)

(First Indian in the field of Health Services for mothers and children)

Sharayu Pandit was born in a village near Ujjain (former Gwalior State). She grew up in her maternal uncle's family. Her association with her uncle, who was a medical man, induced her to be a doctor. She graduated from the Grant Medical College, Bombay in 1931. She was the recipient of merit scholarships, received competition prizes in Physiology and in Ophthalmology.



She worked as House Surgeon, Dufferin Hospital, Akola, from where she was recruited to the newly formed training reserve wing of the W.M.S. in 1933. She later worked at the Women's Medical School and Lady Lyall Hospital, Agra.

She was deputed for (Post graduate) diploma course in Maternity and Child Welfare (D.M.C.W.) with the first batch of D.P.H. students at the newly established "All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta" 1933-34 and was selected for higher training in Public Health in 1935. She was the recipient of the Rockefeller Fellowship for studies in Public Health in U.S.A., Canada and U.K. for the year 1935-36. It was the first time that an Indian woman was selected for training and for such prestigious Fellowship.

On reaching New York (by sea), she was scheduled to proceed to Toronto to join Toronto School of Public Health (as the Universities in U.S.A. did not grant M.P.H. degrees to women prior to 1946). At Dr. Pandit's request and because of her keen interest in field work, she was, instead, admitted to the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston as a special student. A comprehensive study programme which included lectures at the Harvard School and field work with Boston City and Massachusetts State Health Departments and Voluntary health Organisations, and observation visits were arranged to different states in U.S.A. and in Canada.

A similar programme was arranged for her in U.K. by the Director, London school of Public Health where she was a special student for 6

months. At her request a month's programme of visits in Ceylon and the Health Units, Corporation of Madras in India was arranged.

Dr. Pandit is gifted with a pictorial memory and she made the best of the study period in observing the services and submitted comprehensive reports of her study visits to the Rockefeller Foundation, U.S.A. and its office in India as well as to the Chief Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service, Delhi.

On her return, she worked as W.M.S. Officer (Temporary) at the All India Institute of Public Health in Calcutta as Assistant Professor and Senior Research Officer in the Maternity and Child Welfare Department during which period she conducted enquiry into causes of maternal deaths (1936-37) and study into causes of Anaemia of Pregnancy (1937-38).

Her services were assigned to the Bengal Red Cross and the Provincial Governments of Bengal and Orissa (1938-1944) to initiate Maternity and Child Welfare and to organise State level administration as well as training of health personnel. She was admitted to the regular W.M.S. in 1938.

In 1944, Dr. Pandit, was selected for the post of Professor, Maternity and Child Welfare at the All India Public Health Institute in Calcutta, but was assigned to the Red Cross as Director, All India Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau, New Delhi, where she reorganised training of health visitors and the services. On achievement of Independence, she organised services at Kurukshetra Camp for children and for mothers (both hospital and welfare), and training of 100 nurse aides (young girls 16-21 years) to meet the acute shortage of nurses at the camp. Later a number of them trained as nurses. She also organised short courses for Creche and Social Workers to take charge of creches in industries, children's and women's homes.

Dr. Pandit was appointed "Advisor, Maternity and Child Welfare" - 1948 in the D.G.H.S. (Ministry of Health) and also had additional duties at the Countess of Dufferin's Fund office. She was also Honorary Director, M.C.W., Bureau, Indian Red Cross (New Delhi) for two years (1948-50).

As Advisor, Maternity and Child Welfare, she contributed much in formulating programmes for mothers and children under the first three Five Year Plans for training of health personnel, developing Paediatric training and services and in establishing maternity and child welfare departments in the State Health Departments, for promoting and implementing maternity and child welfare services in the States. Dr. (Miss) Pandit married a Senior

Officer of the I.M.S., Maj. Gen. S.L. Bhatia who was a medical educationist and administrator. Dr. Bhatia (Nee Pandit) maintained very cordial relations with her colleagues and the Assistant Directors, M.C.H. in the States respected her sound advice. She helped them to solve administrative problems with the Director of Health Services of their States. During her work in the States, she travelled to remote villages under difficult conditions and had thus gained intimate knowledge of the health needs of the people both urban and rural,

Dr. Bhatia attended the Mid Century White House Conference on Children in Washington, U.S.A. in 1950 as a delegate. This was followed by 6 months W.H.O. travel grant for study in U.S.A, Canada, U.K., Sweden, Norway and Denmark as well as visits to WHO office (Geneva) and Children's Centre, Paris. In 1954, Dr. (Mrs) S. Bhatia attended the International Conference on Children at Zagreb (Yugoslavia) in 1954. She served on WHO expert Committees 'Maternity Care' (1951) and the "Midwife" in 1954, 'Training of Midwife' (1954) and was Member of WHO Regional Committee for South East Asian Region 1962-65.

Dr. Bhatia contributed to scientific journals on subjects relating to training of health personnel and paediatricians and co-ordination of health and medical work at National, State and working levels. During her service as Advisor, she broadcasted for Canadian mothers and also in U.S.A. She helped to produce several pamphlets for educating the public covering the health of mothers and children. Her publications are:

1. M.C.H. services during I and II Five year Plans
2. Handbook for mothers
3. Summary of Findings of Enquiries into causes of Maternal deaths
4. Causes of Immature and Premature deaths
(Dr. Satur and Dr. Bhatia)

She was Secretary, Advisory Committee, Maternity and Child Welfare (ICMR) 1944-51. She took premature retirement from service in 1961.

Dr. Bhatia was associated with several organisations and institutions working for the health and welfare of mothers and children, the Indian Council for Child Welfare and the Social Welfare Board. Dr. Bhatia has been an active member of the Association of Medical Women in India and served it as its Secretary 1944-52 and as President 1961-71. She attended the International. Conference of Medical Women in Philipines (1962) and in

Norway (1965) and was its Vice President for South East Asia Region (1962-65). She gave a paper at the Philippine Conference entitled "Education of Parents in Child Care" 1962.

She has been in Bangalore since 1961 and has associated herself with voluntary social work for women and children as Chairman, State Social Welfare Advisory Board (1963-67) and as Vice President 1966-77 and President 1977-87 of Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare. As president of the State Council, she developed rehabilitation services for child rag pickers and for domestic child (girls) workers in Bangalore. During her period of Presidentship of the Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare, the Council received the National Award for its distinguished work in 1985. She was appointed Honorary Member of the Indian Council for Child Welfare, New Delhi, in 1989 for a period of three years.

*He who wants to do good knocks at the gate,
he who loves finds the gate open*

Rabindranath Tagore

CHAPTER VI

PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL WOMEN IN INDIA

DR. ANNETTE BENSON, DR. (MRS) DADABHOY

DR. ANNETTEE BENSON, M.D.,B.SC.,

First president of the "Association of Medical Women in India"

Dr. Benson was Director and Medical Officer of the newly established Cama and Albless Hospital Bombay. She joined the post when Dr. Pechey Phipson resigned and was incharge of the hospital until 1918. She continued to work in India for the Scottish Mission Hospital after she retired from Cama Hospital, Bombay. While at the Cama Hospital, Dr. Benson, with her able administration and her skilled care for women, popularised the services of the Cama Hospital. She was an able officer who contributed to the

success of the hospital and in making it an up-to-date hospital and the best among the large hospitals for women in India.

Dr. Benson was one of the senior doctors who was much concerned over the conditions of work of medical women in the women's hospitals, including the Dufferin hospitals. She often arranged informal meetings with women doctors to discuss the problems of the medical women working in Dufferin and the Government hospitals (women's section). In 1906, Dr. Benson organised a meeting of all the women doctors of Bombay and from the neighbouring places, at her residence and discussed the problems facing medical women and those concerning medical relief.

In January 1907 she arranged a meeting of doctors from different parts of India in Bombay and decided that they should form themselves into an Association, "The Association of Medical Women in India" and Dr. Benson was elected its first President. As President she gave of her best to the Association. She herself was energetic and tactful in dealing with people. She achieved much in improving the working of the women's hospitals and the service conditions of women doctors.

Dr. Benson as President of the Association of Medical Women in India led the delegation to Government of India at Simla to consider the work of medical women and their status. In 1909-1910 she pleaded for the formation of the Women's Medical Service and to appoint a medical woman as Secretary of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. Both the proposals were implemented.

During the first World War in her capacity as President of the AMWI, Dr. Benson offered the services of the women doctors of the Association to take charge of military hospitals and thus helped to relieve the men officers for the Army. The services of women doctors were much appreciated. As a result, the Government of India considered the proposal for constituting an all India Women's Medical Service where services of WMS officers would be assigned to the different Dufferin Hospitals in India and also gave a grant to the Dufferin's Fund for the purpose. She was also instrumental in establishing the Lady Hardinge Medical College Delhi for the medical education of Women by Women Professors.

*Women must be put in a position to solve their own way.
No one can or ought to do this for them. And our Indian women are as
capable of doing it as any in the world.*

Swamy Vivekananda

DR. (MRS) DOSSIBAI DADABHOY

MD (LONDON) MRCP (LONDON)

(First Indian doctor to be President of the Association of Medical Women in India - Honorary Consultant and first to introduce Radium in India)

Dr. (Mrs) Dossibai Dadabhoy was born in 1885 in a well to do Parsi family and was socially well placed. She completed her medical studies at the Grant Medical College, Bombay in 1903 and worked under Sir Temusji Nariman. In 1907 she decided to undergo higher studies in England and joined the "Royal Free Hospital" and the "London School of Medicine for Women" where she passed the Conjoint (within a year) and appeared for M.D. (London) in 1912.



On her return to India she started private practice in Bombay and opened a Maternity Clinic and a Hospital. She was the first doctor to use Radium for treating women patients; she extended this facility to the patients at the Cama and at other hospitals. She was appointed Honorary Consultant Obstetrician to the Cama and Albless Hospital, Bombay (1924-35). She was also lecturer and Honorary Obstetrician at the newly established Gordhan Das Medical College and KEM Hospital, Bombay and Honorary Consultant to the Parsi General Hospital, Bombay. All these appointments were due to her brilliant career and her popularity as a skilled doctor.

She was President of the I.M.A., Bombay and Founder Member of the "Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Societies of India".

She was the first Indian President of the "Association of Medical Women in India" 1937-47 and in this capacity she served on the Health Survey and Development Committee 1942-46. She was decorated with M.B.E. She joined the delegation consisting of Dr. H.M. Lazarus, Dr. J. Jhirad to present the Memorandum to the "Minister for Health", Government of India, protesting, when the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women Delhi was proposed to be made a co-educational college (1950).

CHAPTER VII

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE ALL INDIA WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICES AND SECRETARY COUNTRESS OF DUFFERIN'S FUND (DELHI)

DR. M.I. BALFOUR AND DR. H.M. LAZARUS
(FIRST INDIAN)

DR. M.I. BALFOUR MD (LOND)

First Chief Medical Officer of the All India Women's Medical Service.

Dr. (Miss) Margaret Balfour came out to India as a missionary doctor but later worked at one of the Dufferin hospitals. She was appointed Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Punjab. She was Founder Member of the newly formed Association of Medical Women in India (1907) and continued to be its active member. Dr. Balfour was appointed Secretary of the Countess of the Dufferin's Fund Council in 1914 (in addition to her work as Inspector of Civil Hospitals, Punjab) and in 1918 she was made full time Chief Medical Officer of the newly established "All India Women's Medical Service" and Secretary, Countess of Dufferin's Fund (1916) where she continued until 1924. Dr. Balfour was an able administrator; she improved the terms and conditions of Women's Medical Service and also the working of Dufferin Hospitals. She set up the Dufferin Fund Office and regularly visited the hospitals and did much to improve the administration of the Dufferin Hospitals all over India (including Dufferin Hospitals in Burma). The Fund was collected by Lady Dufferin (wife of the then Governor General).

She was a keen observer and interested in preventive medicine and research into the health problems of mothers and children and to adopt appropriate measures to prevent and to treat them. Her early effort in training indigenous dais at the Dufferin Hospitals, to improve midwifery service in the rural areas in the vicinity of Dufferin Hospitals, proved fruitful. She gave support to Dr. Young's proposals for promoting health services for mothers and children. She was also instrumental in the establishment of the Delhi Health Visitors and Maternity Supervisors Training as early as 1918. The

Committee was headed by Sir Henry Sharp (Secretary Education) and Dr. Balfour was its Honorary Secretary.

Dr. Balfour retired from the post of CMO and Secretary, Dufferin's Fund in 1924 but continued to be in India and took up research on Common "health problems of women and children". Some of the studies and work she undertook are her work on Anaemia in mothers of tea estates of Assam, causes of neo-natal deaths and still births in Bombay; nutritional conditions of mothers and maternal mortality. It was at the request of Dr. Balfour that Lady Irwin collected a fund for research and obtained a grant from the (former) "Indian Association for Medical Research" (Now ICMR).

Dr. Balfour's keen interest was in preventive work. In her capacity as President of the Association of Medical Women in India, a Memorandum was presented by her to Lady Irwin in 1929 requesting her to establish a research fund and to enhance the Government grant for the expansion of the women's Medical Service, to assign officers to establish Maternity and Child Welfare Services for planning, administration and for implementing the services under Governments and voluntary organisations and to create training facilities for medical women in Public Health (Maternity and child welfare).

Dr. Balfour took keen interest in the work of the Association of Medical Women in India and was its first Secretary and Editor of the Journal 1907-1918. She presided over the silver jubilee celebrations of the Association in 1932.

Dr. Balfour is the joint author with Dr. Young for the book "Work of Medical Women in India" (1928).

Dr. Balfour continued her interest in the work of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund and the WMS Service.

Dr. Balfour was elected Fellow of "British College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology" in absentia.

She was a small built person, very pleasant and friendly. She maintained good relations with her colleagues and was most helpful to the W.M.S. Officers. She never failed to guide young doctors and was an excellent judge of their aptitude to any special training.

DR. H.M. LAZARUS

MBBS (MADRAS), M.R.C.P. (ENG.) LRCP (LOND.), FRCS (EDIN), DOG (LOND.)

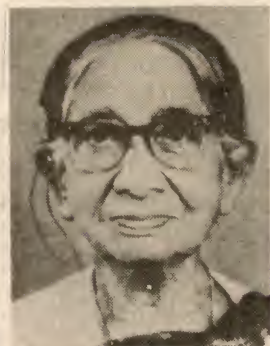
the first Indian Chief Medical officer of W.M.S. and Secretary Countess of Dufferin's Fund Council.

First Indian Principal of the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women and Assistant Director General, IMS 1942-46

Dr. Lazarus was born at Waltair, Andhra Pradesh (old Madras Presidency). Her father was a Railway Official. She had her college and medical education in Madras and obtained the M.B.B.S., Madras in 1916. She soon went to England and appeared for the Conjoint and LM (Rotand). She is the only Indian doctor to be recruited to the WMS while in England (and thus had the full privilege of the W.M.S. service, passage and other benefits as her European colleagues). As a member of the W.M.S. she worked at the Lady Hardinge Hospital, Delhi, the Dufferin Hospital - Calcutta, and as Superintendent, Dufferin Hospital, Vishakapatnam. Later she was Principal of "Lady Willington Medical School for Women", Madras, and Superintendent of the attached hospital the "Kasturba Memorial Hospital for Women and Children" where she continued for 12 years. Dr. Lazarus did outstanding work in Madras and established a children's unit at Kasturba Hospital in 1935. She also started nursing and midwifery school at Vishakapatnam for teaching in Telugu and in English.

In 1941, Dr. Lazarus went to Delhi as Principal of Lady Hardinge Medical College, where she was again the first Indian Woman doctor to have this honour. A year later she took over as "Chief Medical Officer, W.M.S. and Secretary, Countess of Dufferin's Fund Council 1942, again the first Indian for this high office and had additional charge as assistant Director General IMS in the rank of Colonel to be incharge of the Women's recruitment during the period of world War II. During this time quite a number of medical women joined the army as medical officers incharge of Command and other Army hospitals and as specialists.

Dr. Lazarus along with Mrs. Dadabhoy, the then President, Association



of Medical Women) served on the "Health Survey and Development Committee" (1936-43). She retired from the W.M.S. early in 1947 and was appointed Principal and Director of the Vellore Medical College and Hospital by which time Dr. Scudder had retired. She continued there until 1962. During this period she was a Member of the Review Committee (on health service). Later Dr. Lazarus was Honorary Professor (1969) and Director, "Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology", Vishakapatnam and associated herself with different social organisations. She presided over the 7th All India Obstetrics Conference while she was CMO, WMS. Dr. Lazarus was awarded CBE.

She died in 1980 after many years of valuable service to the nation. She was a close friend and colleague of Dr. Jhirad. Dr. Lazarus was well known for her skilled medical work as an Obstetrician and a Gynaecologist and she was also a good teacher. She was a Member of the State Assembly, Andhra Pradesh and Member of Zilla Parishad, and in this capacity she was a Member of the Indian Nursing Council.

The rights of women are sacred. See that women are maintained in lights attributed to them.

Prophet Mohammed

CHAPTER VIII

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR UNDER GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND STATE GOVERNMENT

DR. (MRS) SITA AYAPPA (NEE ACHAYA),
DR (MISS) ABUSHA MARIKAR

DR. (MRS) SITA AYAPPA (NEE ACHAYA)

First Medical Woman as Deputy Director General, Health Service (Medical Education).

Dr. Sita Achaya comes from the land of coffee, Coorg (Karnataka). She had her medical education at Madras and was a brilliant student at the Madras Medical College from where she graduated in 1940. She continued to work in Madras General Hospital and qualified for DGO



in 1942. In the same year Dr. Achaya was recruited to the Madras Medical Service and worked at the Madras General Hospital and Madras Medical College as Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery for three years (1942-45) and in Obstetrics and Gynaecology for a year (1945-46). At the same time she qualified for M.S., Madras (General Surgery) in 1945.

In 1946 Dr. Achaya was admitted to the All India Women's Medical Service (New Delhi) and was selected for higher training in surgery the same year. She went to England on a Government of India Scholarship and obtained FRCS, England where also she did well and got FRCS in the shortest possible time.

On her return after post graduate studies in England, Dr. Achaya was appointed by the Dufferin's Fund at the Lady Hardinge Medical college as Professor of Anatomy in 1947, when the W.M.S. was disbanded in 1948 and the Lady Hardinge Medical college became an autonomous body,

Dr. Achaya continued at the College as Professor of Anatomy until 1965. The staff of the college were placed in the Central Health Services in 1965 according to their qualifications and seniority.

In view of Dr. Achaya's experience as a Senior Professor and her high qualifications she was listed as Senior Officer in the CHS Cadre and thus qualified for the post of Deputy Director General Health Services (Medical Education) Government of India in 1967.

Dr. Sita Achaya is the first medical woman to have had this high position. She returned to the Lady Hardinge Medical College as its Principal in 1969 and continued as Principal of the College until 1975. The College made considerable progress during her years as Principal and she was an able administrator, gentle and had an even temperament and she managed the College well. She was respected and loved by the students.

Dr. Achaya's premature retirement in 1975 was felt by the medical women both at the college and members of the Association of Medical Women in India, as the college had made considerable progress during her years of service as Principal of the college. Dr. Achaya recognised that the Women's Medical Services (W.M.S.) helped her to attain the position she held in teaching and in administration. Dr. Achaya was also Head of the Department and Professor of Anatomy for 30 years. She passed away at Bangalore in 1993.

DR. (MISS) ABUSHA BIBI MARIKAR

MBBS (MADRAS), MD (MADRAS), DGO (MADRAS)

(First woman doctor who was Director, Medical Service, Madras and later Director, Health and Family Welfare, Tamil Nadu)

Miss Marikar comes from the former Princely state of Travancore, now Kerala and belongs to an Indian Muslim family. She is the first Muslim Lady to achieve such high position as a woman doctor. Her father late H.O.L. Marikar held a prestigious position in the Travancore State, Member of Former (Sri Moolam) Travancore State Assembly.



She was born in 1912 and had her college education at Queen Mary's College, Madras and later at the Madras Medical College. She qualified for M.B.B.S. in 1937 and for D.G.O. in 1938. Dr. Marikar was admitted to the Training Reserve Wing of the W.M.S. in 1939 and worked at different Dufferin Hospitals namely the "Elgin Hospital, Jabalpure" (1939-40), "Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi" (1940-41) as Lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynaecology and at the "Lady Atchison Hospital, Lahore" (1941-42).

Dr. Marikar was on study leave during 1942-43 and obtained M.D. (Madras). She was recipient of Lazarus Gold Medal (University of Madras). As W.M.S., Officer, she worked as Senior Medical Officer, Dufferin Hospital, Calcutta 1943-44, later at Victoria Hospital for Women and Children, Vishakapatnam. With the disbandment of the Women's Medical Service in 1948, Dr. Marikar was appointed Civil Surgeon (1949), Madras Medical Service and was given additional duty as lecturer in Obstetrics at the Andhra Medical College, Vishakapatnam.

With the division of the Madras State (Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh), Dr. Marikar was appointed Medical Superintendent, Kasturba Gandhi Hospital, Madras (Tamil Nadu). In 1960 she was posted as Superintendent Government Hospital and Clinical Lecturer in Obstetrics Madras Medical College.

In 1961, Dr. Marikar was appointed as Director, Medical Services and in 1968 the post was designated as Director, Health and Family Welfare. She

continued in this post until 1970. Dr. Marikar proved to be an able administrator and was respected by colleagues and officials.

While in service, Dr. Marikar travelled a good deal and made study and observation visits to different countries. In 1958 she went to U.K. where she studied the National Health Services and also attended the International Conference of Medical Women as a delegate from India.

In 1964 she was on a "Ford Foundation" travel study grant and visited different states in U.S.A. and in U.K. to observe medical and health administration and family planning services. She also visited Japan and Singapore. Later in 1965 she attended the 18th World Health Assembly along with the State Health Minister as leader of the delegation, when they also visited Yugoslavia. The experience she gained during these visits to different institutions helped her to promote the administration and medical services in Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Marikar has published scientific papers and in view of her high offices in Medical and Health Administration, she was associated with several social and medical organisations. On retirement from active medical and health service of the State, Dr. Marikar worked for the Red Cross, Tamil Nadu where she introduced rehabilitation services for the handicapped.

She is a Founder Member of the Aitunza International, Madras and has organised creches and services for rehabilitation of women and children. She is a Member of the Prohibition Council and President of organisations associated with rehabilitation of the handicapped. She is an active member of professional associations in Tamil Nadu and particularly Association of Medical Women in Madras City. She has all along worked for promoting professional skill among her colleagues and women doctors who worked under her and the students.

Dr. Marikar has a calm temperament. She is a good teacher and proved herself a good administrator as Director, Health Services and Family Welfare in Tamil Nadu. She is also a skilled surgeon and good obstetrician. Very many women have had her skilled care.

In her official capacity, Dr. Marikar was President and Member of several scientific and other Committees namely President, Madras Nurses and Midwives Council, Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, British Medical Association, Madras Branch, Madras State Research Committee and others and was a Member of several State and central committees.

CHAPTER - IX

MEDICAL WOMEN ENTERED DIFFERENT FIELDS OF MEDICINE AND WERE TEACHERS AT THE MIXED MEDICAL COLLEGES AS EARLY AS 1936

DR. MISS JOHN, DR (MRS) K. VYITILINGAM
DR (MRS) AIMAN VETHAVANAM DR. MISS DINA PATEL

DR. MARY P. JOHN, M.B.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.

(First to be a Professor at a Co-educational Medical College, Patna and the first woman as Professor, Patna University).



Miss Mary Purienkarimpil John belonged to Alleppey, Kerala. She was born in October 1904. She graduated from the Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi and worked at the same college for a year and later at Ajmer. She was admitted to the Training Reserve Wing of the W.M.S. in 1933, and was posted to the Dufferin Hospital, Calcutta, and later as Resident Medical Officer, Lady Atchison Hospital Lahore.

Dr. John was selected for higher studies by Dufferin's Fund Council for 1936-37 during which she qualified for the L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., and also took the M.R.C.O.G. (London). She was later elected as Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (F.R.C.O.G.)

As there was no vacancy in the regular W.M.S., Dr. John was referred to Patna Medical College. She is the first women doctor in the Bihar Medical Service who was given a teaching post as Professor. She was later Professor and Head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Patna Medical College 1955-60. During this period she was also Founder and first President of the "Bihar Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society" 1958-60.

The Maternity and Child Welfare project implemented in Bihar (1953) included developing domicilliary midwifery service for students of the Patna Medical College Hospital and it was due to Professor John's co-operation that a successful domicillary midwifery training project with

associated child welfare centres was developed at Patna Medical College Hospital for training of doctors, nurses and midwives. This project helped women medical students to have good training in Obstetrics both at child welfare centres and in the homes; and the men students had the required number of cases for delivery at the hospital and to attend to Obstetric emergencies in homes.

Dr. John was an active member of the Association of Medical Women in India. She was nominated by the Association to serve on the Board of Administration of the Lady Hardinge Medical College for the years 1965-73. After she retired from Bihar, Dr. John returned to her home at Kottayam (Kerala) where she continued to give the advantage of her experience and service as a Honorary consultant for quite a number of years 1968-79 and was President of the Medical Association, Kottayam.

She thus helped many young students and doctors who had the benefit of her rich experience and knowledge. As a teacher she was particular that students maintain records of the cases and operations. There was thus uniformity in the maintenance of data at all the hospitals in Bihar and one could study the health conditions of mothers namely maternal mortality and its causes, infant deaths, premature and immature deaths and their causes.

Dr. John founded the "P. John Memorial Trust Hospital" at Aymanam Kottayam, Kerala and she was personally seeing to its development. Dr. John's demise took place recently in 1990.

*Sincerity of conviction and purity of motive will surely gain the day
and even a small minority armed with these is surely destined to
prevail against all odds.*

Swamy Vivekananda

DR (MRS) KAMALA ISREAL VYITILINGAM

MBBS (MADRAS), MD (MADRAS)

Dr. Kamala Vyitilingam was the first sub-assistant Surgeon (with L.M.S.) who continued her education and occupied a high distinction in Cardiology.

She belonged to the Old Madras Presidency (now Tamil Nadu) She came from a family where her father was the only Christian, his other relatives being Hindus. Her father was in civil service and had three sons and a daughter (Kamala). The eldest was a son who became a doctor and was in charge of a leprosy asylum. Kamala (the second) had her childhood and early education with her brother and her cousin brothers (who had lost both their parents).



From her young days Kamala was keen on becoming a teacher and a doctor. She lost her mother when she was only 10 years. Her mother had wanted her daughter to train as a doctor.

Dr. Ida Scudder had established a Medical School for women at Vellore. She visited the school (1919) where Kamala was studying and pleaded with the school girls to become doctors. Dr. Scudder's visit further enthused Kamala to take up medicine.

Kamala Vyitilingam applied for admission to the Vellore Medical School in 1919. Those days (with a view to encourage girls to train as doctors) the Government of Madras was giving scholarships to women students undertaking medical training. Dr. Vyitilingam was recipient of a merit scholarship as well.

Dr. Vyitilingam did a house job in a small Mission Hospital. The place once had floods and the hospital was under water. The patients had to be shifted. Dr. Vyitilingam, showed great courage and was the last to come up (after moving all the patients). For this notable work, the municipality awarded a cash prize to her.

Dr. Vyitilingam (who was keen from her young days on medical work and also to teach) was appointed Demonstrator in Anatomy at the "Lady

Willington Medical School for Women", Madras and the Caste and Ghosha Hospital (Now Kasturba Hospital). Madras which was one of the early women's hospitals established by the efforts of Dr. Dame Scharlieb. At the end of two years, Dr. Vyitilingam moved to Vellore Medical School and was appointed teacher in Anatomy at the women's Medical School where she had her training.

Dr. Vyitilingam was all along keen on specialising in diseases of chest. In 1940 when sub-assistants of different medical schools were given the option to train for M.B.B.S., Dr. Vyitilingam under the guidance of Dr. Scudder took immediate opportunity and decided to take M.D., in general medicine. She joined the Madras Medical College and after the regular concised three year courses of M.B.B.S., she prepared for M.D., Madras. Col. Mac Robert who was the Dean and Professor of Medicine at the Madras Medical College mentioned that Dr. Vyitilingam was the best of the lot of doctors who appeared for M.D. of Madras that year. Dr. Vyitilingam obtained M.D. of Madras in 1945. She was thus well equipped to work at the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore, which had since risen to a University status.

On her return to Vellore, Dr. Vyitilingam was asked to set up the Department of Cardiology. It was not so easy to work with Senior men Professors as the doctors and professors were not in favour of women taking up specialities other than Obstetrics. As a result it was not an easy task for Dr. Vyitilingam to set up the Cardiology Department. Dr. Betts (an American) a skilled thoracic Surgeon who was at Vellore encouraged her to develop the Department.

In 1953, Dr. Vyitilingam did post graduate work for a year in Cardiology at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, U.S.A. for a year where she gained considerable experience. Because of the good work of Dr. Betts and Dr. Vyitilingam, the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore, soon became well known in Cardiology for the clinical and surgical work and was developed as the first post graduate teaching department in Thoracic Surgery.

In 1962-63, Dr. Vyitilingam spent another year in U.S.A., at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore and gained further up-to-date information and experience in Cardiology.

Dr. Kamala Vytilingam retired from the Vellore Christian Medical College in 1967 and came to Bangalore. She worked at the C.S.I. (Church of South India) hospital, Bangalore and raised its status to an affiliated hospital for under-graduate training of medical students of the newly started St. John's Medical College, Bangalore. The C.S.I. hospital became popular due to the excellent medical care by experienced and senior doctors like Dr. Vytilingam and Dr. Issac (the director, who is a thoracic Surgeon and a student of Dr. Betts and Dr. Vytilingam).

In 1976, the Johns Hopkins Hospital celebrated the Silver Jubilee of its Cardiology Department. Dr. Vytilingam was invited to participate. She presented a report on the cases she had treated and dealt with during the 20 years of her work in Cardiology at Vellore. Her presentation of the report was much appreciated.

Dr. Vytilingam was very accurate in her judgement and was not moved by any other persons' diagnosis, but always had her independent opinion of a case. She was fond of reading and was a very helpful, friendly person. She had a daughter, three grand children whom Dr. Vytilingam loved very much, one of whom is a doctor. She died after a brief illness in 1986.

DR. (MRS) RANETA AIMAN (NEE VETHAVANAM)

MBBS (MADRAS), DMCW (CAL.), LRCP (LOND.), MRCS (LOND.),
DOG (LOND.), MRCP (LOND.)

(First woman doctor as Professor of Pharmacology and Dean of mixed Government Medical College)

Dr. (Mrs) Raneta Aiman nee Vethavanam qualified from Madras Medical college in 1932. She worked as House Surgeon for a year at the Madras General Hospital and later at Salem as Medical Officer, "Maternity and Child Welfare". The work at Salem induced her to undertake D.M.C.W. training at the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta which she did in 1934-35. Dr. Aiman was all the same keen on Medicine and went to the Christian Medical School, Vellore, and worked in different departments of the hospital for a year. In 1936, she proceeded to England for higher studies and after obtaining the Conjoint, she did D.R.C.O.G. at Rotunda. She later joined the Royal Free



Hospital in London and worked for the M.R.C.P. examination which she passed in 1938.

On her return to India Dr. Aiman was admitted to the regular W.M.S. in 1939. As a W.M.S. Officer, she worked at the Lady Lyall Hospital, Agra; as teacher in Medicine and later as Medical Officer in charge of Dufferin Hospital at Chinwada. In 1941 Dr. Aiman was appointed Professor of Pharmacology and second Physician at the Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi. She was deputed for training in Pharmacology during 1942-45 under Col. R.N. Chopra at Calcutta. In 1945 Dr. Aiman was appointed Professor of Medicine and continued as such until 1947. She was asked in 1947 to revert to the post of Professor of Pharmacology and second Physician. Dr. Aiman felt that this change was unfair particularly in the same college where she had senior teaching position and resigned from W.M.S. service on grounds of her status as Professor-in-charge of the Department of Medicine (1945-47) and having the necessary qualifications and experience for the last seven years, which was more than the officer designate had for the post.

Dr. Aiman left Delhi and appeared before the Public Service Commission at Poona and was selected for the post of Professor in the vacancy as Dr. Dixit, who was Professor of Pharmacology was appointed as Director, "All India Institute of Medical Sciences" New Delhi. Dr. Aiman joined the post of Professor, Pharmacology, Sasoon Medical College, Poona (1948). In 1951 she was awarded Fullbright Travel Grant to visit U.S.A. and other places. Dr. Aiman continued at Poona Medical College as Professor and head of the Department of Pharmacology 1948-62. She was appointed Dean of the College in 1962 but she had to retire from services the same year. After retirement Dr. Aiman was appointed Professor of Pharmacology at the Vellore Medical College 1962-71. Later she came to Bangalore.

Dr. Aiman was the first Indian doctor to devote herself to the teaching and to the development of the Department of Pharmacology. She was a good teacher, very thorough in her subject and was extremely keen on research in the subject. She was much interested in her staff and students and wanted them to undertake research in Pharmacology; and has induced many young women doctors to take up teaching of Pharmacology. Dr. Aiman was research minded and was extremely accurate and to the point in whatever she did or said. Quite a few medical colleges had Professors who had post

graduate training under her. They in turn developed under graduate and post graduate departments in Pharmacology in their respective colleges.

Dr. Aiman as a person was very friendly and very helpful to people. She was a Christian and did much for the Church in bringing women together and helping them to organise programmes to raise funds and to help the needy. The Church had a service where a number of women and students paid tributes to her. Dr. Aiman died at Bangalore in April 1989.

DR. MISS DINA N. PATEL

M.D., F.C.P.S. F.C.S. F.I.C.O.G.

First Lady to be the Dean of the Wadia Maternity Hospital, Bombay and the attached post graduate Institute of study and Research. Dr. Patel has made valuable contribution in promoting Family Planning Services.

Miss Patel had her childhood and schooling at Poona. As a young child she was much impressed by the family physician and wanted to be a doctor. She completed her school education at Poona as well as inter-science, a pre-requisite to medical training. Fortunately in her time parents were willing to educate their daughters and encouraged them to be doctors. Dina Patel thus joined the Seth G.S. Medical College, Bombay in 1939. She was already on a merit scholarship for her brilliant success in the F.Sc examination. She graduated from the G.S. Medical College, Bombay in 1944 and obtained M.B.B.S. (Bombay). Her early clinical work was at the K.E.M. Hospital attached to the College and later at the Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital, Bombay.



The College of Physicians and Surgeons, Bombay awarded a college fellowship to Miss Patel for post graduate studies in the subject Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She passed M.D., Bombay in 1948.

Dr. Patel was appointed Resident Medical Officer at Nowrosjee Wadia Hospital and she continued in that position until 1956. During these 8 years she had the opportunity to work with senior obstetricians and gynaecologists like V.V. Shirodkar, Masani, Patwardhan and others. In 1965, Dr. Patel, in

recognition of her good work, was appointed Honorary Senior Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to the same hospital and she continued to work in that position until 1976. In 1977, Dr. Patel was appointed Dean of the "Nowrosjee Wadia Hospital and Post Graduate Institute for study and Research in the subject of Family Planning". In this position she had abundant opportunities which she fully made use of. She established the Sir Ness Wadia Research Centre in memory of Sir Ness Wadia (the Founder). She also introduced new methods of Family Planning and made a study of them at the hospital before introducing them for wider use.

She did outstanding work particularly in training doctors and others in Laparoscopic work and in studying its usefulness in Family Planning. She organised Laparoscopic training programmes with the help of Dr. M.N. Parikh and organised training camps in different parts of India both urban and rural.

During her period of Deanship (1977-86) several improvements were made at the Institute. Her special work has been Endoscopy. Her papers on the subject have been presented at Medical and other conferences and have also been published both in India and in other countries. Dr. Dina Patel and Dr. Dinoo Dalal are co-authors of a book entitled "Gynaecological Endoscopy". As a member of the Field consultants Team of the Johns Hopkins Programme for International education in Gynaecology and Obstetrics for training of senior doctors in Laparoscopy; Dr. Patel is in touch with progress in other countries as well. Dr. Patel with her seniority and wide interest is associated with several medical and social welfare organisations. "The Indian Association of Voluntary Sterilisation", the "Indian Association of Fertility and Sterility" as well as the International College of Surgeons. She is President of the Indian Association of Gynaecological Endoscopists and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Bombay. She is a Founder Member and Fellow of the "Indian Academy of Juvenile and Adolescent Gynaecology and Obstetrics" She is a Member of the Indian Fertility Research Programme and Professor emeritus Nowrosjee Wadia Maternity Hospital.

Dr. Dina Patel has been a member of the Association of Medical Women in India and has all along taken keen interest in the work of the Association during her 25 years of service to the Association as General Secretary and Treasurer 1970-86. She is a member of "Dr. Jhirad Fund" created by the Association and is at present President of the Association of Medical

Women in India. She has attended meetings of the Medical Women's International Association during 1986-87 and was National corresponding Secretary for India. She was elected Vice President for the period 1987-92 and as such she looks after the countries of South East Asia Region. Dr. Patel was elected President Association of Medical Women in India 1993. She has done much to promote the work of the Bombay branch of the Association.

Dr. Patel has been examiner for undergraduates and post graduates in Obstetrics and Gynaecology of Bombay and other universities. Dr. Patel's work has been appreciated and she has received awards for her work in Family Planning from the Corporation of Bombay and the Rotary Club Sangli. She is a member of Zonta International for service organisation for Executive Women.

Great things can be done by great sacrifices.

Swamy Vivekananda